



**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the first paragraph of page 1 as follows:

--This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 as a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/747,828, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,776,695, entitled "PLATEN DESIGN FOR IMPROVING EDGE PERFORMANCE IN CMP APPLICATIONS," and filed on December 21, 2000. The disclosure of this Patent Application is incorporated herein by reference. --